STORMWATER AND LAND USE WORKGROUP MEETING
April 27, 2010, 1:30 – 3:30 PM
Mason County Public Works, Shelton, WA

SUMMARY

Attendance

Allison Chamberlin, Mason County Stormwater Program
Amy Georgeson, Mason County Public Health
Bob Hager, Lower Hood Canal Watershed Coalition
Bob Simmons, WSU Extension, Mason County
Chris May, Kitsap County Public Works – SSWM
Dan Hannafious, Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group
Dave Herrera, Skokomish Tribe
Debbie Riley, Mason County Public Health
Julie Horowitz, Hood Canal Coordinating Council
Kim McKee, Dept. of Ecology
Phil Wiatrak, Dept. of Ecology
Richard Gersib, Dept. of Transportation
Scott Brewer, Hood Canal Coordinating Council
Sue Texeira, Hood Canal Coordinating Council
Teri King, Washington Sea Grant

Materials Distributed

April 27th Meeting agenda
Aquatic Rehabilitation Action Plan and Stormwater and Land Use Chapter Outline

Meeting Summary

1) **Updates –**
   a) Mason County Stormwater Advisory Task Force has been formed to inform the implementation of the Mason County Stormwater Plan. This Advisory Task Force includes a broad range of local stakeholders.

2) **Recommendations from the Aquatic Rehabilitation TAC to the Hood Canal Coordinating Council –**
   a) At the April 21st Hood Canal Coordinating Council Board Meeting, board members asked that the TAC provide them with a suite of options, including tough issues.
   b) Recommendations may have two timelines, 1) short term recommendations that require minimal analysis that may be produced in the next few months to be built with the board and proposed to legislators and agencies in time for consideration for agency and executive budgets developed in the summer and early fall of 2010 in advance of the 2011 session.
   c) Initial recommendations should be very simple.
   d) WRIA 16 plans may be a good source of possible recommendations

e) Possible short-term recommendations include:
    i) Adoption of current stormwater standards (essentially, the 2005 Ecology SWM Manual) for new development by all HC jurisdictions (Counties, Cities, & Tribes).
    ii) Adoption of an "LID is the first choice" policy by all the above jurisdictions for HC.
    iii) Implementation of a pollution identification and correction (PIC) source-control (IDDE) program for the HC watershed.

3) Discussion of scope and focus of stormwater and land use workgroup.
    a) What do we mean by “stormwater”?
        i) Use existing definitions of stormwater.
        ii) Use the current regulatory and scientific definition of stormwater
        iii) Stormwater definitions -

Glossary definition (from NRC 2009)

Stormwater: That portion of precipitation that does not naturally percolate into the ground or evaporate, but flows via overland flow, interflow, channels, or pipes into a defined surface water channel or a constructed infiltration facility. According to 40 C.F.R. § 122.26(b)(13), this includes stormwater runoff, snow melt runoff, and surface runoff and drainage.

From Stormwater Monitoring Forum - Draft Stormwater Monitoring and Assessment Strategy for the Puget Sound Region--Volume 1: Scientific Framework, and Volume 2: Implementation Plan.
Link to entire document at:
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/ps_monitoring_docs/SWworkgroupDOCS/RevSWMonitAssessStrategy04302010.pdf

> *Stormwater is a term that is used widely in both scientific literature and regulatory documents. It is also used frequently throughout this document. Although all of these usages share much in common, there are important differences that benefit from an explicit discussion.*
>
> *Most broadly, stormwater runoff is the water associated with a rain or snow storm that can be measured in a downstream river, stream, ditch, gutter, or pipe shortly after the precipitation has reached the ground. What constitutes —"shortly" depends on the size of the watershed and the efficiency of the drainage system, and a number of techniques exist to precisely separate stormwater runoff from its more languid counterpart, baseflow. For small and highly urban watersheds, the interval between rainfall and measured stormwater discharges may be only a few minutes. For watersheds of many tens or hundreds of square miles, the lag between these two components of storm response may be hours, a day, or more.*
>
> *From a regulatory perspective under the Clean Water Act, stormwater must pass through some sort of engineered conveyance, be it a gutter, a pipe, ditch, concrete canal, or even along a roadside curb. If it simply runs over the ground surface, or soaks into the soil and soon reemerges as seeps into a nearby stream, it may be water generated by the storm but it is not regulated stormwater.*

This document emphasizes the first, more hydrologically oriented definition. However, attention is focused mainly on that component of stormwater that emanates from those parts of a landscape that have been affected in some fashion by human activities. Mostly this includes water that flows over the ground surface and is subsequently collected by natural channels or artificial conveyance systems, but it can also include water that has infiltrated into the ground but nonetheless reaches a stream channel relatively rapidly and that contributes to the increased stream discharge that commonly accompanies almost any rainfall event in a human-disturbed watershed. We also include in our overall framework non-stormwater runoff that is generated by human activities taking place between precipitation events such as car-washing, lawnwatering, etc. These discharges can contribute to receiving-water impairments and are managed within the same infrastructure and programs as precipitation-generated runoff.

b) What should this workgroup focus on?
    i) Need a comprehensive look at water quality impacts. How do we parse out water quality impacts of land uses?
    ii) Determine what this group addresses and what the Habitat workgroup will address.
    iii) Land use issues are pertinent and need to be addressed, but go beyond the immediate regulatory requirements.
    iv) The immediate needs for Mason County are around the Phase II NPDES permit.
    v) Focus on source control and conveyance mechanisms
    vi) Low DO issues are a good place to start, but don't stop there. The pieces will interconnect and lead to addressing other issues.

4) What information do we need from the Hood Canal science research?
    a) List of potential questions for scientists
        i) What are the relative contributions of nitrogen and other pollutants of concern to Hood Canal from different land uses?
        ii) What is the level of confidence in the model answering question 1?
        iii) Geographically, what sources of nitrogen (and other pollutants?) are most important in particular regions?
        iv) What level is the tipping point for nutrient contributions?
        v) What are model outcomes - 1) if all anthropogenic nutrient loads are removed? 2) if a development build out scenario is modeled?
        vi) How do "well accepted sources" of pollutants from stormwater relate to dissolved oxygen issues? Are there relationships between stormwater constituents and low DO?
    b) Develop a matrix to organize all the scientific information.
5) Comments on stormwater and land use documents – outlines and matrix
    a) Aquatic Rehabilitation Action Plan and Stormwater and Land Use Chapter outlines
        i) In the problem statement section expand focus on other water quality concerns in addition to nitrogen loading.
        ii) "Beyond Phase II permits" as an element of the short stormwater land use chapter outline.

b) Stormwater regs matrix
    i) Tribes may comply with different regs than counties – e.g. EPA manages NPDES permits not Ecology.
    ii) Skokomish Tribe has its own land use permit – SKEPA.

6) Public involvement
    a) HCCC and other partners are undertaking a public involvement process for the Integrated Watershed Management Plan, of which the Aquatic Rehabilitation Action Plan is a part.
    b) Doing surveys to ask people what's important to them.
    c) If there is an implementation focus in particular geographic areas, do more work in those neighborhoods.
    d) To be successful in cleaning up Hood Canal, we should all agree on what needs to be done, where we are going and how we are going to get there.
        i) We need problem statements for issues like Low D O and Stormwater to take to the Public Then go back to them and tell them what we going to do about the problems and ask them what they will do work with them on implementation,
    e) There will be an initial presentation to the Lower Hood Canal Watershed Coalition on June 7th at 7pm.